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RUGELEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

YEAR 1937

Medical Officer's Report

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To the . .

Rugeley Urban District Council

RUGELEY.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for 1937.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health.—C. N. Smith, M.C., M.B., C.H.B., D.P.H., who is also Assistant County Medical Officer to the Staffordshire County Council.

Sanitary Inspector.—J. T. G. Craddock, C.S.I.B., C.F.I., who is also Collector of the Council's rents.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of District	2882 acres
Registrar General's estimate of resident population, 1937 ...	7528
No. of inhabited houses end of 1937	2180
Rateable Value	£30,425
Sum represented by a penny rate	£118

Coal mining is the chief occupation. There is a Tannery, a Clothing Factory, and an Envelope Factory in the district. A considerable number of Juveniles work in factories at Stafford.

Extent of Unemployment.

The number of wholly unemployed is reduced to about 150 and most of these are men getting on in years. Work at Brereton Collieries has increased. No skilled man is out of work.

Vital Statistics.

		Total	M	F
Live Births	Legitimate	125	69	56
	Illegitimate	2	1	1

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population, 16.86

		Total	M	F
Still Births	Legitimate ...	6	4	2
	Illegitimate	1	—	1

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births, 52.2

	Total	M	F
Deaths	90	55	35

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population, 11.95

Death Rate corrected for age and sex distribution, 12.18

Death Rate of infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	70.86
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	72.00
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	5
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	Nil

For England and Wales, Death Rate	12.4
Birth Rate	14.9
Infantile Mortality	58.00

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

The Ante-Natal Clinic for which the Staffordshire Council Council is the Authority has been held fortnightly during the year instead of monthly, as previously. Apart from this there has been no alteration in the Health Services.

Water Supply.

The Council obtain their water supply in bulk from the South Staffordshire Water Works Company. The quantity and quality of the supply is satisfactory. During each year two samples of the Public Supply are submitted to the County Bacteriologist, and two to the County Analyst. Every report on such samples has been satisfactory.

There still remain several houses at Brereton owned by Brereton Collieries, Ltd., which are supplied by contaminated water.

Samples of water from a well at Moors Farm Cottage were submitted to the County Bacteriologist and County Analyst. Both samples were reported to be unfit for human consumption, and arrangements have been made for the Owner to connect to the Public Supply.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No scheme has yet been adopted for the Sewering and treatment of Sewage in the Brereton area of the District.

The Rugeley Sewage Disposal Works are still only one-third of the necessary requirement.

Rivers and Streams.

The stream running through the centre of the town is clean and in no way detrimental to health. Waste paper sometimes gets into the stream, but during the year a screen has been fixed at the entrance to Forge Pool.

The stream running through the Parish of Brereton is still polluted by cesspools. This will be remedied when the Sewage scheme is in existence.

Housing (including Overcrowding).

Nineteen houses in the area have been represented as unfit for human habitation.

Demolition Orders were put on 16.

The Owners of the remaining three houses gave an undertaking not to relet them when vacated.

The situation of the overcrowded families remains the same. There has been considerable delay in the scheme for the rehousing of tenants displaced from Slum Clearance houses. I hope that the scheme will be completed by the end of next year; and also that the scheme for the rehousing of overcrowded families will be dealt with.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

There is no provision yet of Isolation Hospital. The Council has joined in a scheme with other neighbouring Authorities for the Provision of a Joint Isolation Hospital. Until this provision is made, the Council is dependent as heretofore on accommodation in hospitals belonging to other Authorities.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

202 children entered the Infant Departments of the Schools, the parents of all being offered the treatment.

61.25% accepted

An outbreak of Diphtheria stimulated the demand for treatment, and a considerable number of parents who had previously refused to have their children treated when beginning school life, now asked for it.

232 children were treated, of these:—

99 were school entrants.

107 were older children, previous refusals.

26 were babies attending the Infant Welfare Centre.

T.A.M. (Burroughs Wellcome) was the immunising agent used.

No Schick testing was done.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1937

Disease		Total cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	12	7	0
Diphtheria	...	6	4	0
Enteric (including Paratyphoid)	...	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	...	2	2	0
Pneumonia	...	8	1	3
Other Notifiable Diseases	...	0	0	0

During the year 10 deaths were registered as due to Pneumonia.
A number of cases were therefore not notified.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
Classified according to age

Age	under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5	6-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	over 35
Scarlet Fever						2	2	3	2	3	
Diphtheria				1		1	2	2			
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia										2	
Pneumonia							1	1		2	4

Tuberculosis
At the end of 1937 47 cases remained on the register

MALES		FEMALES	
Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
18	11	10	8

New Cases and Mortality during 1937

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1								
1								
5			3	6				
15	2				1			
25	3	1					1	
35	2				2	1		
45								
55	1							
65 and over								
Totals	8	1	3	6	3	1	1	0

No deaths occurred in non notified cases. Notification is efficient.
No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, or under Sec. 62 of Public Health Act 1925.

1—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors

Premises 1	Number of Inspections 2	Written Notices 3	Occupiers Prosecuted 4
Factories Including Factory Laundries ...	14		
Workshops Including Workshop Laundries ...	18		
Workplaces Other than Outworkers' premises	3		
Total	35	nil	nil

2—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—*	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	5	5
Other nuisances	1	1
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective	1	1
Total	7	7

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Charles N. Smith,

Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH		Males	Females
	ALL CAUSES	55	35
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...		
2	Measles		
3	Scarlet fever		
4	Whooping cough		
5	Diphtheria		
6	Influenza	3	2
7	Encephalitis lethargic		
8	Cerebro-spinal fever		
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	3	1
10	Other tuberculous diseases ...		1
11	Syphilis		
12	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis		
13	Cancer, malignant disease ...	3	2
14	Diabetes		1
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc. ...	2	3
16	Heart disease	9	10
17	Aneurysm		
18	Other circulatory diseases ...	2	1
19	Bronchitis	5	1
20	Pneumonia, all forms	9	1
21	Other respiratory diseases ...	1	1
22	Peptic ulcer		
23	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ...		
24	Appendicitis	1	
25	Cirrhosis of liver		
26	Other diseases of liver, etc. ...		
27	Other digestive diseases ...	3	1
28	Acute and chronic nephritis ...	1	2
29	Puerperal sepsis		
30	Other puerperal causes ...		
31	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc. ...	6	1
32	Senility		3
33	Suicide	1	
34	Other violence	3	1
35	Other defined diseases ...	3	3
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown ...		
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)			
	Small-pox ...		
	Poliomyelitis		
	Polioencephalitis		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total	8	1
	Legitimate ..	8	1
	Illegitimate ...		
Live Births	Total	70	57
	Legitimate	69	56
	Illegitimate	1	1
Stillbirths	Total	4	3
	Legitimate	4	2
	Illegitimate		1
Population		7528	

Report of Sanitary Inspector

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Seventh Annual Report dealing with the work carried out in the Health Department during 1937.

Closet Accommodation.

The Town area is mostly sewered; and of the 1,650 houses in this area, only eleven have not been converted to the water carriage system. There are cases in the district of closets having no flushing apparatus; but during the year 50 houses have had water supply and apparatus provided.

A scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Health for the proper sewering of the Brereton area. In this area are 248 privies, and 131 waterclosets to cesspools. At Etching Hill and Hednesford Road are 131 houses, sixty of which have waterclosets to cesspools.

Nuisances have again arisen during the year from the overflowing of the Cesspools at Hednesford Road; and in my opinion the sewering of this area is desirable.

Public Cleansing.

(a) **Dry House Refuse.**—For the town area the Council have a Morris covered refuse vehicle. A large number of the bins are now carried into the street and emptied into the vehicle. In the added area the collection of refuse has been carried out by two contractors.

(b) **Contents of Privies, Cesspools, etc.**—This is conveyed from the premises in a special Sludge cart and disposed of for manurial purposes.

Eradication of Bed Bugs:—During the year only one privately owned house and two Council Houses were found to be infested. The Council's workmen disinfested all three by the following methods:—All picture moulding, skirting boarding, etc., was removed and sprayed at intervals. All defective plaster, nail holes, etc., were cut out; and the back of the boarding, the plaster, furniture, nail holes, etc., were sprayed with an insecticide. The insecticide we used was Bo No. A spray is left with the tenant for frequent spraying. The workmen call after one month to repeat the spraying, make good the plaster, and replace or renew necessary woodwork. Only distemper or paint is allowed on the walls. The tenant is given instructions to notify any reinfestation, and calls are made at intervals to see that the house is kept clean. The premises of prospective Council house tenants are examined, and if infested we endeavour to disinfest the house and furniture by the method described above, before the removal of the tenant to a Council house.

Swimming Baths.

There are no public or private swimming baths or pools in the area.

Shops Acts.

The Shops Inspector has been working in conjunction with the Health Department in regard to the sanitary conveniences, ventilation, etc. Five notices were served to provide adequate sanitary conveniences.

Sanitary Inspection of District.

Number of houses visited during the year, either in connection with outbreaks of Infectious Disease, or in course of investigating complaints, or in carrying out a systematic survey	1324
Number of Final Notices issued	52
,, ,, ,, complied with	52
,, Informal Notices issued	242
,, ,, ,, complied with	190

Particulars of Sanitary Matters referred to in above Notices.

Drains and Water Closets amended in construction and/or cleansed	60
Dwelling Houses needing repair	30
,, ,, Overcrowded	0
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	6
Scavenging	110
Offensive accumulations	21
Other matters	9
Removal of Caravan Dwellers	1
Shops Acts, Sanitary Conveniences, etc.	5

Infectious Diseases.

Number of rooms disinfected	18
,, Schools	0
,, Beds	20

Smoke Abatement.

No action taken or found necessary.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations.

The Council have Bye-laws for Common Lodging Houses. There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District. There is a Chandlery and Tannery in the District. There are no underground sleeping places in the District. There are no Bye-laws for, Houses-let-in-Lodgings, tents, vans, sheds, etc., offensive trades, or Lodgings and accommodation for Hop pickers.

Schools.

In Rugeley town the sanitary conveniences are on the water carriage system. In the added area there is no sewer available, and the schools have earth closets which are emptied every week. The water supply to all the schools is received from the Council's mains.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

There are no premises in the District on which rag flock is manufactured, used, or sold.

Housing.

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts or Housing Acts 270

Number of inspections made for that purpose 555

(2) Number of Houses inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 152

Number of inspections made for that purpose 305

(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 19

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation 132

2. Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defected dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 72

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under Housing Act, 1930, Sections 17, 18 & 23.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served and requiring repairs ... 60

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By Owners 58

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners 0

B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 52

(2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By Owners 52

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners 0

C.—Procéedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	16
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	2
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which the Council accepted undertakings from the Owners not to let them for human habitation when vacated	3

4. Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding:—

(a).—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	58
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	58
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	370½
(b).—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	4
(c).—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	4
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	29

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply. 46 visits have been paid to farms and dairies; and the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Orders enforced. Three informal notices were served and complied with.

There are sixteen Cowkeepers and Dairymen residing within the District; and there are ten Retail Purveyors, whose dairies are outside our District.

The Staffordshire County Council carry out the sampling and examination of milk for Bacterial Content and for tubercle bacilli.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

Slaughterhouses on Register (Registered)	4
(Licensed)	3
Number of inspections and visits to slaughterhouses	910
Number of inspections of Butchers' Shops, Cooked Meat Shops, Fried and other Fish Shops, Stalls, etc.	1120
Number of Informal Notices served	2
,, ,, ,, complied with	2

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	COWS Mr. Parker Under T.B. Order	COWS Mr. Parker Not Under Order	COWS Other Butchers	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (estimate) ...	200	141	120	180	50	680	830
Number inspected ...	150	141	120	160	37	550	800
All Diseases except Tuberculosis							
Whole carcases condemned ..	0	0	30	0	0	4	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	18	0	20	21	0	51	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ..	12%	0	41%	13%	0	10%	0
Tuberculosis only							
Whole carcases condemned ...	1	73	10	1	0	0	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	5	65	10	7	2	0	48
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B. ...	4%	98%	16.5%	5%	5.4%	0	6.2%

I have set out separately the figures of cows slaughtered at Mr. A. Parker's slaughter-house at Love Lane, because it is a casualty station for emergency slaughter of animals from the districts surrounding Rugeley. As will be seen from the above figures, it is frequently used by the Inspectors for the slaughter of animals under the T.B. Order.

(c) Adulteration, etc. This s not an Authority for enforcing the Acts and Regulations referred to under this head.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of food. The Stafford County Council have provided Laboratories and carry out such work.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. G. CRADDOCK.